

62-104401

BEST
AVAILABLE
COPY

April 6, 1961

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

See in on 2-4-61
This Bureau has not conducted an investigation of the John Birch Society (JBS) or its founder Robert H. W. Welch, Jr. However, the files of this Bureau disclose the following information.

The JBS was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, by Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., a candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, in order to further Welch's anticommunist campaign. It was incorporated on December 23, 1958, as a nonprofit business organization under the laws of the State of Massachusetts. The aims and purposes of the organization were listed as to promote civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and the collection and dissemination of literature for educational purposes. Welch has characterized the long-range objective of the JBS as "less government, more responsibility and a better world."

EX-120 REC-95 62 - 104401 - 954
In an article "The Wrong Way to Fight Reds" by Mabley in the January 30, 1961, issue of the "Chicago News," a Chicago, Illinois, daily newspaper, Mabley writes on Welch and the Society. Mabley states Welch, in his own words, is absolute boss of the Society and quotes Welch as saying the Society must be run by a "hard-boiled, authoritarian and dynamic boss." Mabley sums up his article stating the communist threat in this country is real and that the country needs the energy and interest of every man who will work to counteract communist evil; but the unbelievable irresponsibility espoused secretly by the JBS can bring only scorn and harm to real anti-Communist efforts.

Welch authored a book entitled "The Politician" in 1961. He did not have it published but had a limited number of copies printed, which he sent to friends who he believed

ONE YELLOW: The information set forth above is identical to information furnished State Department by letter dated 11/1/61 in answer to that Department's request for information concerning JBS.

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1961

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 9-8-86 BY [redacted]

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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

would be interested in its contents. A review of this book disclosed it was a vicious attack on the political beliefs of former President Eisenhower and, by innuendo, alluded to President Eisenhower as being procommunist.

Welch also publishes a magazine "American Opinion," which was incorporated January 13, 1956, under the laws of the State of Massachusetts, and which he also uses as an outlet for his anticommunist crusade. As an example of the type of material which appears in "American Opinion" an article was published in the October, 1959, edition entitled "A Review of Reviews" written by Revilo P. Oliver, a professor at the University of Illinois. This article contained allegations that between 70 and 80 per cent of the responsible officers in the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (DHEW) are members or accomplices of the communist conspiracy. This appears to be a follow-up of a speech made by Oliver in March, 1959, at which time he allegedly stated that one third of the top echelon of the communist conspirators in this country are in the DHEW and stated his source was Herbert Philbrick. Philbrick, a former FBI informant, upon interview has denied giving Oliver any information concerning communist infiltration of the DHEW. Our files disclose that Philbrick never furnished such information to the FBI.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-6-61

FROM : M. A. Jones

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS)

Tolson _____
Parsons _____
Mohr _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach ☒
Evans _____
Malone _____
Rosen _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
W.C. Sullivan ☒
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

Shortly after 7 a. m. this morning on WRC Radio News, the statement was made that Cardinal ~~Cushing~~ had endorsed the controversial JBS and its leaders.

MASS-

We will, of course, be on the alert for news clippings on this to submit as early as possible.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

- 1 - Mr. DeLoach
- 1 - Mr. Morrell
- 1 - Mr. Belmont
- 1 - Mr. Parsons

CEM:cbc

(7)

Clipping sent in to Director 4/6/61

REC-71

62-104401-956

9 APR 10 1961

EX-139

CRIME RESEARCH

51 APR 13 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-3-86 BY [redacted]

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

DATE: March 31 1961

FROM: *JW* J. Walter Yeagley, Assistant Attorney General
Internal Security Division

SUBJECT: *0* JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING

Reference is made to your memoranda of March 6, 1959, September 11, 1959, and September 16, 1959, captioned "Robert H. W. Welch, Jr." and to your memorandum of September 8, 1960, captioned as above.

exp You are requested to furnish this Division with a copy of the other chapters of Mr. Welch's book, "The Politician", if they are available, and a copy of the "Blue Book", reportedly available at any of the Society's bookshops.

You are also requested to furnish this Division with a summary of all of the information you may have on Mr. Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., and "The John Birch Society" and to make a preliminary inquiry in order that this Division may determine whether an investigation is warranted.

EXP. PROC.
APR 3 1961
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REC-71

62-104401-957

EX 104

APR 3 1961

*1 cc Room
1259*

*Let to AHR, Yeagley
w/2 encls.
4-6-61
JHR:mas*

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INT. SEC.

1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

Assistant Attorney General
J. Walter Yeagley

April 6, 1961

Director, FBI

**JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(INTERNAL SECURITY)**

Reference is made to your memorandum dated March 31, 1961.

In accordance with the request contained in the second paragraph of your referenced communication, there is enclosed one Photostat each of "The Politician" and "The Blue Book" of the John Birch Society.

In accordance with the requests contained in the third paragraph of your referenced communication for a summary of information on the Society and Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., and that a preliminary inquiry be made in order that the Internal Security Division may determine whether an investigation is warranted, this is to advise that a summary of the information concerning the Society and Welch was forwarded to the Attorney General dated April 5, 1961, and a copy was designated for you. In view of the contents thereof no further action is being taken concerning your request for a preliminary inquiry unless a subsequent request is received from you.

Enclosures (2)

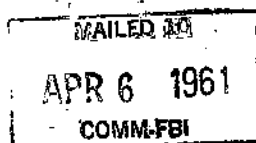
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62-104401 - 957

EX 104

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DATE 4-3-86 BY [redacted]

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Tolson _____
Mohr _____
Parsons _____
Belmont _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
DeLoach _____
Malone _____
McGuire _____
Rosen _____
Trotter _____
Evans _____
W.C. Sullivan _____
Tele. Room _____
Ingram _____
Gandy _____

JHK:mar
(4)

62 APR 12 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Mohr

DATE: 4-3-61

FROM : C. D. DeLoach

SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tolson	✓
Parsons	✓
Mohr	✓
Belmont	
Callahan	
Conrad	
DeLoach	
Evans	
Malone	
Rosen	
Tavel	
Trotter	✓
W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	
Ingram	
Gandy	

Today Mr. [REDACTED] called the Bureau and spoke to SA Heim in my office. He said that he had noted an article in the "Los Angeles Examiner" issue of Saturday, April 1, 1961, concerning the John Birch Society. The article, written by Frank Coniff, stated that the John Birch Society was anti-Catholic, anti-Semitic and anti-U.S., according to the caller. He said that the article mentioned FBI Director Hoover's recent statement against vigilante action and that the article by inference or implication if not outright statement related that the FBI disapproved of the Birch Society.

[REDACTED] said that he is a Catholic and is not a member of the Birch Society. He remarked that he had checked on the Birch Society and could find nothing in its material which appeared to be anti-Catholic or anti-U.S. He said that he has always held Mr. Hoover and the FBI in the highest esteem and was most grateful that the security of the whole country was in their hands. If the FBI has, in fact, investigated and found the John Birch Society to be subversive, [REDACTED] stated that he will be the first to oppose it. He said, however, that he wanted to know what the FBI's feelings were concerning this organization.

It was pointed out to Mr. [REDACTED] that the FBI as an investigative organization of the Federal Government did not make any evaluations or statements concerning the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. It was emphasized that accordingly such action was not within the province or the jurisdiction of the FBI and that it would be entirely wrong to say or infer that Mr. Hoover or the FBI had made any such statement or evaluation of this or any other organization. In response to Mr. [REDACTED] inquiry concerning the Director's recent statement against "vigilante action," he was advised that the Director has on several occasions as a matter of policy spoken out against reckless and vigilante action in connection with law enforcement and the national security of the country.

REC-71

62-104401-958

57 APR 14 1961

See next page...

25 APR 10 1961

LJH:lln

(2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

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DATE 4-3-86

CORRESPONDENCE

DeLoach to Mohr memo

Re: MR. [REDACTED]

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Mr. [REDACTED] repeated his strong support for the FBI and requested that he be furnished some of the Director's public statements and material concerning the menace of communism. He was told this material would be forwarded to him and would include the full text of Mr. Hoover's statement on "vigilante action." By envelope today without cover letter the following reprints were sent to Mr. [REDACTED] LEB Introduction, 4-1-61, Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality, One Nation's Response to Communism, Director's address to The American Legion, Miami Beach, Florida, 9-18-60 and LEB Introduction, 3-1-60 with Analysis of 17th National Convention of CP, USA.

The Los Angeles Office is forwarding a copy of the John Birch Society articles in the "Los Angeles Examiner" of April 1, 1961. Efforts to obtain a copy of this paper ^{ready} were made with negative results.

RECOMMENDATION:

For information.

Received 4/3 in p.m.

D413



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, MINNEAPOLIS (100-12314)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
SM - C

DATE: 4-6-61

The "Jamestown Sun" of Jamestown, North Dakota, dated March 11, 1961, contains an Associated Press release out of Bismarck, North Dakota, quoting utterances by one [redacted] following statements made by Senator MILTON R. YOUNG, Republican of North Dakota, concerning the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

Following are quotations from this article as attributed to [redacted]

"Said [redacted] 'I don't think the senator understands the purpose of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. I hope he will take the time to visit a society meeting sometime. He will never find a more dedicated and sincere group of Americans.'

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[redacted] described the organization as a 'patriotic group whose central idea is for less governmental interference and more individuality.'

"He said the organization is concerned about the advance of communism in the world and that he, personally, feels the growth of the communistic threat 'should bother us all.'

"N.D. HAS CHAPTERS

[redacted] said there are about a dozen JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY chapters in North Dakota located principally in Bismarck, Williston, Fargo, Braddock and Watford City.

"He said the chapters hold regular meetings and follow a definite program to promote their ideas.

2 - Bureau
1 - Minneapolis

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EX-114

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DATE 4-3-86 BY [redacted]

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MP #100-12314

"[] description of the group differed with that of Time magazine.

"He maintained that many members do not go along with everything WELCH believes. He said the organization is trying to accomplish a purpose and banding together is the best way of achieving that end.

"[] said he was not acquainted with the information YOUNG spoke of that brands former President EISENHOWER as a Communist.

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"He said each individual ascertains for himself whether the program and aims of the society are what they wish to follow.

"The question of WELCH being a dictatorial power in the society does not enter the picture, according to []

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

ST
J
TO : The Director

FROM : N. P. Callahan

DATE: MARCH 28, 1961

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages 4638-4641. Congresswoman Green, (D) Oregon, commented on the John Birch Society. She stated "Many outstanding Americans, of varying political persuasions, have expressed concern at the tactics, the organizational structure, and the real aims of this organization." Mrs. Green included an article from the Washington Post of March 26th "setting forth some of the concerns as this group utilizes the language of 'un-American' for objectives, which, to say the least, might bear closer American public scrutiny."

Original filed in: 66-1731-1

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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DATE 4-4-86 BY [redacted]

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for MARCH 27, 1961 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

55 APR 12 1961

FBI

Date: 4/7/61

Transmit the following in _____
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL REGISTERED
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (100-)

FROM : SAC, NEW YORK (62-11243)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
IS - X

Mrs. [redacted]

[redacted] discussed the information contained herein with SA [redacted]
[redacted] on 4/7/61:

Mrs. [redacted] who is well known to the Bureau, is
[redacted] which contains
a great deal of political comment of a very controversial
nature.

"The New Bedford Standard-Times" (New Bedford, Mass.),
4/4/61, p. 10, under the by-line "Standard-Times Staff Writer,"
reported that "members of the John Birch Society (JBS) and others
were told last night that the views of some of our scientists,
if adopted, would mean surrender to international Soviet
Communism." The article then set out comment of a speaker.
That was the first paragraph of the article. In the fifth
paragraph, the article explained that "Mrs. [redacted] spoke before
some 100 persons at the American Institute (AI), 64 Sigourney
St., Jamaica Plain." The article added that the discussion was
sponsored by the AI and had been recommended by the JBS to its

5 - Bureau (RM)
(1-100-341171) [redacted]
1 - Boston (RM)
1 - NY 62-11243 (413)

AS:msb (413)

(8) 1961

Approved: [redacted]

Sent _____ M Per _____

Special Agent in Charge

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NY 62-11243

membership. The next paragraph added that WELCH, the head of the JBS, was not present for the talk and that the JBS was not discussed by Mrs. [REDACTED]

Mrs. [REDACTED] was very much upset by the article because she said it was a deliberate lie and a plot on the part of someone to destroy her and [REDACTED]" and to discredit the fight against communism. She also felt that the article was an attempt to make it appear that she supported the JBS and/or to force her to take a position on that subject.

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Mrs. [REDACTED] explained that she had been invited to speak before the AI by the [REDACTED], at the suggestion of HERBERT [REDACTED] AI President. She stated that her topic was to be "No. One Issue - Survival." While working out the arrangements for the talk, Mrs. [REDACTED] agreed that the JBS would not be discussed.

Mrs. [REDACTED] arrived at the hall where she was to speak somewhat tardy because of traffic congestion. As she entered the hall, [REDACTED] chairman of the affair, was explaining to the audience that Mrs. [REDACTED] would not discuss the JBS.

Mrs. [REDACTED] in her talk, did not mention the JBS. During the question and answer period which followed her talk, she was asked if the JBS would become the subject of a Senate investigation. The chairman immediately ruled the question out of order. However, Mrs. [REDACTED] remarked that since she was neither a Senator nor a member of the JBS, she was in no position to answer the question.

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As the affair ended, one of the audience introduced himself to Mrs. [REDACTED] the "New Bedford Standard-Times."

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Mrs. [] wanted the Bureau to be informed that:

- 1) She had been invited to speak at this affair by the AI at the suggestion of its president, HERBERT PHILBRICK.
- 2) She did not mention the JBS during her talk.
- 3) She made it clear that she was not a member of the JBS.
- 4) Some time ago, she declined an invitation to write for "American Opinion," which is published by the JBS.

Mrs. [] solicited suggestions as to whether she should do anything to correct the implication made by the article that she was a member of the JBS. She was politely informed that the Bureau could not advise her in this matter. After talking for some time, Mrs. [] said she would call Mr. [] the "Standard-Times", and discuss this with him.

Mrs. [] called later to report that she had discussed the matter with []. He informed her that he was the Massachusetts organizer of the JBS and that he had sent out letters to members of the JBS recommending that they might want to hear her speak. [] promised to publish a blurb to explain that she was not a member of the JBS and that she had spoken at a meeting sponsored by the AI at the invitation of the AI.

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This is being furnished to the Bureau as it is possible that Mrs. [] may at some future date contact the Bureau and refer to the information set out herein.

A copy is being forwarded to Boston, inasmuch as it contains information regarding personalities and activities in that area.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4/10/61

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tolson _____
 Parsons _____
 Mohr _____
 Belmont _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
 DeLoach _____
 Evans _____
 Malone _____
 Rosen _____
 Tavel _____
 Trotter _____
 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Ingram _____
 Gandy _____

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A letter was received from captioned individual on April 6. He apparently is upset over present attempts on the part of many of the newspapers to link the Director's introduction to the April 1, 1961, issue of the FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin to the John Birch Society. [REDACTED] stated that he was not a member of the Society but would be proud to be one. The tone of his letter is quite belligerent and at one point, he tells Mr. Hoover "If the shoe fits - wear it." Throughout his communication he lectures the Director and it is not felt he deserves a reply in view of his attitude. He is not identifiable in Bufiles.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the letter from [REDACTED] not be acknowledged.

REC-82

EX-117

HHA:njs
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62-104401-981
APR 11 1961

CRIME RECORDS

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62 APR 13 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 DATE 1-3-86

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/7/61

FROM : SAC, PORTLAND (100-10091)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
(Internal Security)

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. Parsons	✓
Mr. Mohr	✓
Mr. Belmont	✓
Mr. Callahan	✓
Mr. Conrad	✓
Mr. DeLoach	✓
Mr. Evans	✓
Mr. Malone	✓
Mr. Rosen	✓
Mr. Tavel	✓
Mr. Trotter	✓
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	✓
Tele. Room	✓
Mr. Ingram	✓
Miss Gandy	✓

Re SAC Letter 60-5, which contains background data concerning captioned organization.

There is being summarized data of possible Bureau interest relative to the John Birch Society (JBS), based upon press articles which have recently appeared in Portland daily newspapers.

The Oregonian, Portland daily newspaper, on 3/29/61 contained an article entitled "Salty Self-Styled Rebel Claims John Birch Label," under the byline of [redacted] staff writer, for the Oregonian. The article quotes JOSEPH A. MALLON, age 69, a resident of Pleasant Valley on a 40 acre farm east of Portland as having stated that he was the "original John Birch Society" in Oregon.

B. APPROX. 1892

The second article in the series by Staff Writer [redacted] appearing in The Oregonian on 3/30/61, entitled "Anti-Red Society Pioneer Traces Group's Growth in Oregon," noted the JBS "apparently" came to Oregon "about two years ago" and referred to JOSEPH A. MALLON as having stated that he was the head of the state's first chapter. MALLON was reported as having stated he had received a letter from ROBERT WELCH, founder and head of the JBS, appointing MALLON "chapter leader" for the "first chapter in Oregon," which was "to be Chapter No. 143."

The above article went on to state that another "early leader" was [redacted] Portland insurance man and [redacted]

Portland. In a written statement, reportedly written for the Oregonian, [redacted] related, according to the article, that in [redacted]

2-Bureau (AM) (RM)
1-Portland

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APR 11 1961

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55 APR 14 1961

September, 1959, seven people, including professional and business executives, attended a two-day meeting in Seattle, Washington with ROBERT WELCH. All but one of the seven became associated with the society. [] became a "part" of the organization in January, 1960 and remained so until July 1, 1960. He reportedly organized a "number of chapters" throughout Oregon and disagreed with MALLON's statement that the latter was the first JBS member in Oregon. MALLON indicated that some of his chapter's members later formed their own chapters, it being his guess that there were "about eight other chapters in the Portland area," six of them started by original members of his group. He described chapters as normally having an average of twenty members with a maximum of thirty members.

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A third article by Staff Writer [] appearing in The Oregonian on 3/31/61, entitled "Internal Disagreement Apparent in Extremist Birch Society," refers to PAUL CLEMENT, 71 year old television repairman, 3907 SE Clinton Street, Portland, as one of Oregon's early John Birch members, and one of those in MALLON's chapter.

B. APPROX. 1890

The fourth article in the series appearing in The Oregonian on 4/2/61, by [] is entitled "Birch Society Coordinator Gives Up Farm to Join 'Battle.'" and pertains to [] Oregon

B. APPROX. []

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[] coordinator of JBS, who reportedly stated he became coordinator in September, 1960, and subsequently gave up a small farm and dairy near Springfield, Oregon, to devote his full time to the activity. The article noted that [] "parried questions about the number of John Birch chapters in the state with the statement 'This is an area which I haven't received instructions on,' adding it was not a "question of secrecy exactly," but was up to headquarters.

[] identified as the father of three children and traveling in a house trailer, was quoted as stating he averaged "about 26 meetings a month" which would include "meetings of existing chapters, open chapter meetings, with guests attending, meetings of interested groups set up by individual chapter members and meetings of interested groups of their own initiative." [] reportedly "helped set up six chapters since last September" and he visits all that he and [] set up," the latter being identified as referring

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to [] predecessor in the job, and the one who introduced [] to the JBS in February, 1960.

In referring to his job, [] noted he received \$300 per month, plus mileage from JBS headquarters for his work. Dues were stated to be \$24 per year for men and \$12 for women. He stated his official duties included helping set up chapters and making sure existing chapters are functioning effectively, his activities thus far being in the area west of the Cascade range.

The fifth and concluding article in the series by [] appeared in the 4/2/61 issue of The Oregonian under the title "John Birch Founder Says 'Fantastic' Measures Required." According to this article there "reportedly" are chapters of the JBS in Eugene, Medford, Grants Pass, Lebanon and Newport (Oregon), in addition to "several" believed to exist in Portland. The article described [], proprietor of [], as a "John Birch member," belonging to the chapter of Mrs. [], in Tigard, Oregon.

On 3/30/61, an article entitled "John Birch Society Flourishing in Oregon" appeared in the Oregon Journal, Portland daily newspaper, in which [], Portland insurance man, was quoted as having stated that he had organized the JBS in Oregon in Medford, Grants Pass, Newport, Lebanon and Portland, devoting six months to the task, after attending a 1959 meeting in Seattle where he met ROBERT WELCH, founder of the JBS. The article made further reference to Mrs. [] Tigard, Oregon, as leader of the JBS chapter in the Southwest Portland suburban area. Mrs. [] was reported as having stated the chapter had been meeting monthly in her home.

Meanwhile, on April 5, 1961, the Oregon Journal contained an article with dateline of "Washington Bureau of Journal," captioned "Birch Group Actions Scored by Representative Green" in which the Oregon Congressman EDITH GREEN reportedly called upon the people to judge "outfits like the JBS not in terms of what they say they are against but in terms of what they say they are for." Her remarks reportedly followed receipt by her of a substantial number of letters from "Portlanders and other Oregon residents" who identified themselves as members of the JBS or whom she

PD 100-10091

regarded as clearly identifiable as members because of the tone and wording of their letters."

The Oregonian on 4/6/61 contained an article under "Washington (Special)" dateline, entitled "John Birch Society Puts Green on 'Sympathizer' List," in which Representative GREEN was quoted as having stated in her newsletter to constituents that she had been termed a "Communist sympathizer" for disagreeing with the JBS members and others demanding the impeachment of Chief Justice EARL WARREN of the U. S. Supreme Court. She also was quoted as stating that "Outfits like the JBS" should be judged "not in terms of what they say they are against, but in terms of what they show they are for."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *MD*

DATE: 4-6-61

esa FROM : D. C. Morrell *DM*SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tolson _____
 Parsons _____
 Mohr _____
 Belmont _____
 Callahan _____
 Conrad _____
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 Evans _____
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 Tavel _____
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 W.C. Sullivan _____
 Tele. Room _____
 Ingram _____
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By letter of 4-1-61, the above-captioned individual forwarded a copy of his communication to "The New Castle News." His letter refers to the John Birch Society pointing out that the Department of Justice has voiced their concern over the organization, and the Director's April, 1961, Law Enforcement Bulletin Introduction criticizes vigilante action. He indicates that although he is not a member of the Society, he does question the disapproval of this anticommunist group particularly when the American public is constantly being urged to support the fight against communism.

Bufiles contain no identifiable information regarding [REDACTED]

The John Birch Society was founded in 12-58 in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. It is incorporated under laws of State of Massachusetts; is allegedly anti-communist; has chapters throughout the country; and has not been investigated by the Bureau. Welch and the Society in the past have been extremely critical of former President Eisenhower.

RECOMMENDATION:

As [REDACTED] letter is not addressed to the Director, it is not felt desirable to become involved in his questions regarding this highly controversial group.

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EX-108

APR 11 1961

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JMM:ncr

56 APR 17 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 DATE 4-3-86 BY [REDACTED]

CORRESPONDENCE

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: April 3, 1961

FROM : SAC, LITTLE ROCK (100-3396)

SUBJECT:

Mrs. [REDACTED]

John Birch Society

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Belmont	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Malone	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

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On April 3, 1961 the Little Rock office received a copy of a letter addressed to Mr. J. EDGAR HOOVER, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Washington, D. C., dated April 1, 1961 at Benton, Arkansas, signed Mrs. [REDACTED]

Page 3
of this letter contained the following handwritten notation:

"Mr. [REDACTED]"

To avoid the possibility of any misunderstanding, I want to add that when we members of JBS urged that Mr. Hoover be appointed Attorney General, it was not at the instigation of Mr. Hoover. So far as I know, Mr. Hoover has been completely unaware of this action on our part.

As an afterthought, it occurred to me that this point should be clarified completely.

/s/ Mrs. [REDACTED]

Included with the above letter was a copy of the National Program Letter published by The John Birch Society, Inc., which was undated and bore the caption, "Appreciation and Encouragement"; a pamphlet entitled, "The Communist Conspiracy, How you can fight it" by [REDACTED], Copyright 1961 by Good Reading Rack Service Division Koster-Dana Corp., 76 Ninth Ave., New York 11, N.Y., name [REDACTED] was underlined and an arrow pointed to the hand-printed notation (Mrs. [REDACTED])

[REDACTED]; and a copy of a 7 page letter addressed to Mr. [REDACTED] reporter of the Arkansas Democrat, Little Rock, Arkansas, which requests [REDACTED] to print "a TRUE 'expose'" of The John Birch Society in the Arkansas Democrat.

2 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Little Rock
WGJ/ecc
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REC- 60

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HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
DATE 4-3-86 BY [REDACTED]

62-104401-989

LR 100-3396

Mrs. [] has directed letters to the Bureau and the Little Rock Office since 1960 regarding the topics of Communism and the HCUA movie "Operation Abolition". In connection with this movie she has made public statements appearing in the press, copies of which have been furnished the Bureau under the caption HCUA movie "Operation Abolition".

Referenced John Birch Society bulletin listed the names of the "Committee of Endorsers". Under the caption Arkansas there is listed the name Mrs. []

The above is furnished for the information of the Bureau.

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UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Parsons

DATE: 4/3/61

FROM : C. A. Evans

SUBJECT: John Birch Society

Tolson ✓
 Parsons ✓
 Mohr ✓
 Belmont ✓
 Callahan ✓
 Conrad ✓
 DeLoach ✓
 Evans ✓
 Malone ✓
 Rosen ✓
 Tavel ✓
 Trotter ✓
 W.C. Sullivan ✓
 Tele. Room ✓
 Ingram ✓
 Gandy ✓

Mr. [redacted] Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General, telephoned. He advised that the Attorney General would appreciate receiving any information in the possession of the FBI relative to the John Birch Society and its president.

A check has been made with Assistant Director Belmont who advised the Domestic Intelligence Division already had underway a proposed memorandum to the Attorney General concerning this Society. This memorandum is being expedited and it should come through for approval later today.

1 - Mr. Belmont

CAE:mar

(6) mar

memo AG; cc DAG; AAG, ISD,
 4/5/61 trans. summary memo
 of same date. JHK:mar

REC- 88

62-104401-990

EX-108

11 APR 12 1961

CRIME RESEARCH

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
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 DATE 4-3-86 BY [redacted]

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The Attorney General

April 5, 1961

Director, FBI

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

1 - Mr. Parsons
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

In accordance with the telephonic request of Administrative Assistant to the Attorney General John Seigenthaler to Assistant Director C. A. Evans of this Bureau on April 3, 1961, there is enclosed a memorandum concerning the John Birch Society and its founder Robert H. W. Welch, Jr.

Neither the Society nor Welch has been investigated by this Bureau. However, our field offices are alert for any indication of subversive influence within the organization or any of its chapters.

We are answering inquiries from the press and public for information concerning the Society by stating that this Bureau is an investigative agency of the Federal Government and, as such, does not make evaluations or draw conclusions as to the character or integrity of any organization, publication or individual. However, in the introduction to the "FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin," dated April 1, 1961, I specifically pointed out the need for an objective and dispassionate approach in fighting the communist menace. I felt this step was necessary because of the rash of vigilante-type individuals and organizations springing up throughout the country which tend to depart from fact and use gossip, hearsay and unsubstantiated charges in fighting communism. In the long run, such tactics will hinder rather than help in this fight.

Enclosure

62-104401

1 - Mr. Byron R. White (Enclosure)
Deputy Attorney General

1 - Assistant Attorney General (Enclosure)
J. Edgar Hoover, Director

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Gandy _____

ENCLOSURE
JHK:mar
(11)

51 APR 13 1961

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

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April 5, 1961

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

1 - Mr. Parsons
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. Baumgardner
1 - Mr. Kleinkauf

The following information is set forth concerning the John Birch Society (JBS) and its founder Robert H. W. Welch, Jr.

Background Concerning the Society

The Society was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, in December, 1958, by Robert H. W. Welch, Jr., a wealthy candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, to further Welch's anticommunist campaign. It was incorporated on December 23, 1958, as a nonprofit business organization under the laws of the State of Massachusetts and was assigned Charter Number 624-300. The officers were listed as Robert Welch, President and Treasurer, and [redacted] Clerk (Secretary). The Directors were listed as [redacted] Robert Welch and [redacted] The Incorporators were listed as Robert Welch; [redacted] Robert Welch); [redacted]

and [redacted] All of the aforementioned are residents of the Boston, Massachusetts, area. The aims and purposes of the organization were listed as to promote civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and the collection and dissemination of literature for educational purposes. Welch has characterized the long-range objective of the Society as "less government, more responsibility and a better world."

According to recent newspaper accounts, the Society at the beginning of 1961 had chapters in approximately 35 states and it has been estimated that the Society might have 100,000 members at the end of 1961. The most pronounced activity on the part of Welch and the Society in his anti-

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NOTE ON YELLOW: Original to Attorney General; one copy sent DAG; and one copy sent AAG, ISD, by cover memo to Attorney General same date, same caption, JHK:mar.

JHK:mar (10)

MAIL ROOM ☐ TELETYPE UNIT ☐

ENCLOSURE

[redacted]

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THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

communist campaign has been charges of communists being in high Government positions, including former President Dwight D. Eisenhower. The most recent major activity in this regard has been the calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court. A confidential source who has furnished reliable information in the past has advised that [redacted] of Dallas, Texas, who has been identified in the past as being a former member of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, recently stated he was a member of the JBS and praised the work of the Society. [redacted] stated the Society, without mentioning integration, would only be fighting communism but added that actually communism is the "root of it all" indicating, according to the source, that [redacted] meant fighting communism is also fighting integration. The source advised that [redacted] stated the main work of the Society at the present time is writing letters to Congressmen and other prominent officials, never using the Society's name, and in getting windshield and bumper stickers on as many cars as possible reading "Impeach Earl Warren."

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By memorandum from Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley dated August 30, 1960, Yeagley, in referring to the Society, advised that the Department's records contained no Bureau reports on either the Society or Welch and requested this Bureau to conduct an investigation of the Society pursuant to Executive Order 10450. By memorandum dated September 8, 1960, he was advised that no information had been received by this Bureau indicating any subversive elements in the Society and that in view of this, together with the background information concerning the Society and Welch which had previously been furnished the then Attorney General by memoranda dated March 6 and September 11 and 16, 1959, all captioned "Robert H. W. Welch, Jr.," no investigation of the Society would be conducted unless a subsequent request was received from the Department. To date no subsequent request has been received from the Department for an investigation of the Society or Welch.

The Present Controversy

The JBS is probably one of the most controversial organizations in the country today. This controversy stems mainly from the allegations made by Welch and the Society

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

alluding to President Eisenhower being procommunist; the allegations that there are communists in other high Government positions; and calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Warren. This controversy has led to many attacks on Welch and the Society through the newspapers and in some congressional circles, while at the same time other newspapers and congressional circles have defended Welch and the Society. However, to date this controversy has been confined, at least in congressional circles, to the issue of Welch and the Society and not to the issue of Chief Justice Warren's impeachment.

This controversy slowly gathered momentum until it appears to have reached its peak within the past week when some Congressmen and Senators denounced Welch and the Society while others backed Welch and the Society. According to newspaper accounts, both the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) and the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) have been requested to hold hearings concerning the Society. According to such accounts, Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Vice Chairman of SISS, has denounced the Society and Welch's attack on President Eisenhower and on March 31, 1961, Dodd stated he would bring up the possibility of investigating the Society at the Subcommittee's next meeting. Also according to newspaper accounts, Congressman Francis Walter, Chairman of the HCUA, has stated that the HCUA has received many letters complaining about the Society but none contained material information indicating the HCUA could or should launch an investigation. Walter has further stated that it is not the function of the HCUA to serve as a sounding board either for an organization against individuals or for individuals against an organization. In addition, Senator John L. McClellan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, has been quoted in the press as stating on March 31, 1961, that his Committee has no plans to investigate the Society because his Committee has no jurisdiction to do so.

In addition to this controversy splitting congressional circles into those attacking Welch and the Society and those backing Welch and the Society, the controversy has split congressional circles on the issue of whether a

THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

congressional hearing or hearings should be conducted of Welch and the Society. Some congressional members are demanding an investigation while others are claiming there is no basis or authority for such an investigation.

Background Concerning Welch

The files of this Bureau disclose that Welch resides at 43 Fletcher Road, Belmont, Massachusetts; has an office at 810 Main Street, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he is an officer and director of the James O. Welch Company, a candy company; and has an office at 385 Concord Avenue, Belmont, Massachusetts, from which literature of the Society is mailed and distributed. In February, 1959, this Bureau received information indicating that Welch had authored a book entitled "The Politician," which book Welch did not have published but had a limited number of copies printed which he sent to friends and individuals who he believed would be interested in its contents. A review of this book disclosed that it was mainly a vicious attack on the political life and beliefs of President Eisenhower. In this book Welch by innuendo alluded to former President Eisenhower as being procommunist. Photostats of the pertinent portion of "The Politician," as well as background information concerning Welch and the Society, were disseminated to the then Attorney General by memoranda dated March 6, 1959, September 11, 1959, and September 16, 1959, all captioned "Robert H. W. Welch, Jr."

Newspaper accounts have quoted Welch as stating that he is the absolute boss of the Society and as saying the Society must be run by a "hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss."

A description of the tactics employed by Welch in carrying on the activities of the Society is seen in the statement of Spruille Braden, the former United States Ambassador and a member of the Society's council, as quoted in an article on the Society which appeared on page six of the March 30, 1961, issue of the "New York Journal-American," a daily New York City newspaper. In this article Braden stated he did not agree with Welch's charge against President Eisenhower; that Welch may exaggerate sometimes; but "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensberry rules."

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: April 10, 1961

FROM : W. C. Sullivan

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY
INFORMATION CONCERNING
CENTRAL RESEARCH MATTER

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As could be expected, communists both at home and abroad were quick to see the propaganda value in the news expose of the John Birch Society.

Under a Washington dateline, the Yugoslav news agency Tanyug notes the alarm caused by the activity of the John Birch Society, terming it "a semi-clandestine profascist organization with a program similar to that of the Ku Klux Klan." Further, that in its "radical anticommunist campaign" it has gone so far as to pronounce Presidents Roosevelt, Truman and Eisenhower as well as the late John Foster Dulles, communists. The article states that the Society has about 100,000 members, some of whom are well-known industrialists, government and Pentagon officials, who are not only combating communism but the constitutional rights of Negroes, the United Nations and American assistance to foreign countries. (FBIS/CIA, USSR & EAST EUROPE, 4/6/61, p. NN2)

The Midwest Edition of The Worker on 4/9/61 states that the John Birch Society, which calls itself a "patriotic anti-Communist" outfit, has an inter-linking with blatant racism and even pro-Nazis. In propagandizing the racial issue, the article attacks the Grosse Point (Michigan) Property Owners Association, which apparently screens prospective home buyers by a racist "point" system, noting that its executive secretary was one of the leaders of the John Birch Society in Michigan. The article reflects there are twenty-two chapters of the Society in Michigan and promises that next week's issue will give the "inside story" about the Society.

RECOMMENDATION:

REC-82 APR 11 1961

For the information of the Director

MAL:baj

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|------------------|---------------------|
| 1 - Mr. Parsons | 1 - Mr. Baumgardner |
| 1 - Mr. DeLoach | 1 - Mr. Brennan |
| 1 - Mr. Belmont | 1 - M. A. Lucey |
| 1 - Mr. Sullivan | 1 - Section Tickler |

SI APR 17 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
 DATE 12-21-00 BY [redacted]

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TBI

Transmit the following in _____

(Type in plain text or code)

Via _____

AIRTEL

(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, MEMPHIS (44-1987)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SULLIVAN

(SP - X)

SECURITY MATTER - MISCELLANEOUS

On 3/21/68, [redacted] Street, Nashville, Tennessee, telephoned [redacted] himself as the co-author of an article in the Tennesseean, on 3/21/68. He stated that he made the statement in the article and that it was his own statement. He stated that based upon the information in answer to his question, he had been of the opinion that [redacted] making no statement. [redacted] million.

Mr. [redacted] article and if any comment could be made regarding the statement therein. He was advised that [redacted] on the article and

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3- Bureau
1- Memphis
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DATE 12-28-00 BY [redacted]

Approved: _____
Special Agent in Charge

Jones

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would make no comment. He stated that he planned to send the article to the headquarters of the John Birch Society in Massachusetts with the recommendation that they contact the FBI in Washington relative to the statement appearing in the article and seek to get some clarification on it. He stated that if this was the FBI position, the group he did not want to be associated with it. He stated that the John Birch Society desired to cooperate with the FBI and that the members in Davidson County have the highest regard for the FBI. He stated that he felt sure that this was a misquote in the paper but that it was having the effect of driving many people out of the John Birch Society and he hoped that something could be done to obtain some clarification which could be published which would end the confusion.

The above is submitted for information.

* LETTER RECEIVED TODAY 3-24-61 FROM ROBERT
WELCH RE: THIS MATTER AND IS ATTACHED.

[Handwritten signature]

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 3/27/61

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

APPENDIX

Pages A2067-A2082. Senator Young, (R) North Dakota, extended his remarks concerning the John Birch Society. He included an editorial from the St. Paul (Minnesota) Dispatch of March 18, 1961, entitled "A Job for EDAC," and an editorial from the Minot (North Dakota) Daily News of March 14, 1961, entitled "Twisted Perversion of Facts." He also included the "Application for Membership" required of prospective members of this Society. The application states "If my application is accepted, I agree that my membership may be revoked at any time, by a duly appointed officer of the society, without the reason being stated, on refund of the pro rata part of my dues paid in advance." Mr. Young stated "This is a strange procedure for an organization which professes to support the Constitution of the United States and the rights guaranteed under it."

Original filed in: 66-108-41-1

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ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED
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62-108-41-1
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In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 3/14/61 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

51 APR 21 1961

UNITED STATES

Memo

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-5-61

FROM : D. C. Morrell *um*SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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By letter of March 31, 1961, the above-captioned individual stated he was surprised that the Director has failed to issue a statement giving a clean bill of health to the John Birch Society. He indicates he is a member of the Society, and they are fighting the Bureau's opponents in the war with communism. He stated that this is why they are being smeared and would like the Director to issue a word on behalf of the Society.

The John Birch Society was founded in 12-58 in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. It is incorporated under laws of State of Massachusetts; is allegedly anti-communist; has chapters throughout the country; and has not been investigated by the Bureau. Welch and the Society in the past have been extremely critical of former President Eisenhower. (62-104401)

RECOMMENDATION:

In view of the highly controversial aspects and statements made by prominent individuals regarding the John Birch Society, it is not felt desirable to acknowledge this communication.

*Mr. DeLoach 514**[Handwritten initials]*

REC-97 EX-114

62-104401-1015

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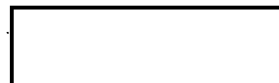
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 DATE 4-2-86 BY [REDACTED]

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5:35

April 10, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TOLSON
MR. MOHR
MR. DELOACH

Mr. [redacted]

[redacted] called to inquire what I knew about the John Birch Society stating he had been gone when this came up and he did not know much about it. He stated that a lot of their enthusiastic young writers, he believed on the basis of no more information than he had, have rushed in and tried to yiscerate Robert Welch on the basis of what is in the newspapers. He stated before they issue any editorials on this they wanted to be sure of their facts. Mr. [redacted] stated he knew quite a few people whose opinions he respected say while this man may be indiscreet he has been charged with saying that Eisenhower is a card-carrying communist without having facts. Mr. [redacted] stated he was trying to get his people to locate Welch to convince him they want to do an honest story and find out if he said what he is alleged to have said, had he been misquoted, did he say some version or have his statements been taken out of context. Mr. [redacted] wanted to know if we have any clear-cut convictions based on our own facts upon which he could base a lead in checking into this matter.

I told Mr. [redacted] that Welch was in California and that we have never investigated him or the John Birch Society, that all I know is what has appeared in the papers. I stated we were trying to get a copy of what he is alleged to have written, and, of course, a great number of the people against him were of the very type he ^{Howard} would like to expose for communist leanings. I stated this does not mean that all are in that category. I felt Welch was probably indiscreet but I believed no one had done the research job which should be done to pin him down so an evaluation could be made. Mr. [redacted] stated this had answered his questions as he was sure such a matter would not have escaped our attention. He stated if it was possible to give him a steer he would appreciate our doing so.

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Gandy _____

cc-Mr. Ingram

MAIL ROOM ☐

TELETYPE UNIT ☐

JEM:AM 67 APR 14 1961

REC-82
EX-108

Very truly yours,

APR 13 1961

John Edgar Hoover
Director

SENT FROM D.

TIME 12:15

DATE 4/11

BY